

Recommendations for Research on Women Veterans

Recommendations for biomedical research:

- **Mental health** (especially PTSD, stress, addiction, sexual trauma, and depression)
- **Military occupational hazards** (focused on injury and rehabilitation, wound healing, tissue remodeling, vaccine development, and biological and chemical exposures)
- **Chronic diseases** (with emphasis on diabetes, infections, autoimmunity, osteoporosis, arthritis, and chronic pain)
- **Cancer** (focused on etiology and response to treatment for exposure-related cancers)
- **Reproductive health** (including fertility, contraception, and menopausal issues).

Clinical Science Research Recommendations:

- Pregnancy and fertility issues
- Returning military and reservists
- Long-term care
- Substance abuse and mental health
- Homelessness
- PTSD and military sexual trauma
- Recent amputees

Health Services Committee's High-priority conditions based on their likely impact on health-related quality of life:

- Psychiatric/emotional health
- Reproductive health/infertility/pregnancy
- Military-specific exposures
- Bone and musculoskeletal diseases
- Chronic pain



Conducting Research

with WOMEN VETERANS

- Behavioral health (e.g., drugs, alcohol, tobacco, stress-related)
- Obesity/metabolic syndrome/diabetes
- Thyroid disorders
- Urinary incontinence
- Menstrual disorders/menopausal symptoms
- Oral health
- Eye/vision problems

Health Services Committee (2004) recommendations for needs assessment on the following high impact concerns:

- Psychiatric/emotional disorders
- Military-specific exposures
- Women veterans' needs & preferences for health services & environment
- Gender-specific barriers to access
- Issues related to service connection
- Better epidemiologic data on women's disease burden & utilization patterns

Rehabilitation research

- Arthritis
- Chronic pain
- Obesity
- Osteoporosis/fall-related injuries
- Amputation (specifically, socket-fit technology)
- Reproductive challenges for disabled women veterans
- Prosthetics (e.g., menstrual cycle/limb volume variability and socket-fit for amputees)
- rehabilitation engineering (e.g., assistive technologies among women with disabilities; gender-specific technologies for urinary incontinence)

Additional Strategic Priorities

- Redesigning primary care services for women veterans in order to integrate gender specific services



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- Quality of healthcare
- Identify an accurate representation of women's health and healthcare needs through research
- Cost of healthcare
- Access to healthcare
- Coordination and continuance of care for women veterans with different health problems by service, era and across different types of care throughout the lifespan
- The implementation of risk reduction strategies when prescribing various medications to women veterans

